Narberth Rural District Council

1970

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DISTRICT
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

NARBERTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1970.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Lady Philipps and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1970.

HOUSING.

On the whole, the standard of housing in the area is good. Work commenced on three blocks of council flats, consisting of 16 units of accommodation, in Saundersfoot, towards the end of the year. In addition, a large number of private dwellings were completed during the year. The council house waiting list remains constant with a considerable number of persons awaiting allocation. Because of the widespread use of dwellings in this part of the county as accommodation let exclusively to holiday-makers, the local problem is aggravated, especially for young newly-wed couples who, because of this, are unable to find permanent rented accommodation. Owing to the popularity of the district as a holiday resort, this difficulty with accommodation is likely to remain.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In common with the remainder of the county, measles was prevalent in the district during 1970. Despite the prophylactic vaccination which is available against this disease for all children over the age of 1 year, 19 cases occurred. One case of tetanus occurred in a teenager; this is a wholly preventable disease and a very efficient vaccine is available against it. Fortunately, this young boy made a complete recovery. Vaccination against Rubella (German Measles) was commenced at the end of the summer for 13 year old girls and this will continue in the future as part of the normal immunisation programme for school-girls.

CARAVANNING AND CAMPING.

During 1970, the standards generally on the sites continued the trend to improvement which has been evident in recent years. With few exceptions, all operators were anxious to provide the facilities which are demanded by the present-day holidaymaker. In accordance with the site licence requirements, operators began, during the year, to improve fire-fighting equipment with modern fire extinguishers.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Council and its Officers for their courtesy and co-operation during the year.

Yours obediently,

MICHAEL LAWLOR, M.B.,
D.C.H., D.P.H.,

The Clinic,
Warren Street,
TENBY.

Tel: Tenby 2991/2.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate) 1970 ... 10,020

	Narberth R.D.1970	Narberth R.D.1969	County of Pembroke	England & Wales
Live Births	150	128		
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	15.0	12.8	16.5	16.0
Illegitimate Live Births	7	8		
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	5	6	6	8
Still Births	3	2		
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 Live & Still Births)	20	15	16	13
Total Live & Still Births	153	130		
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1yr)	1	1		
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)				
- total	7	8	20	18
- legitimate	7	8	20	17
- illegitimate	Nil	Nil	10	26
Neo-natal Mortality Rate(Deaths under 4wks) (per 1,000 Live Births)	7	8	13	12
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1wk) (per 1,000 Live Births)	7	8	13	11
Peri-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1wk & Still Births combined) (per 1,000 Live & Still Births)	26	23	29	23
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live & Still Births)	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Deaths	172	139		
Death Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	17.2	13.9	13.1	11.7

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INFANT MORTALITY.

One male child died at 5 days from prematurity; his birth weight was 3lbs.4ozs.

DEATHS (General).

There is an increase in the death rate this year - there being 33 more deaths in the district than last year. Heart disease accounted for 60 of the total deaths and 29 deaths were due to malignant disease - 7 male deaths from cancer of the lung.

Approximately 38% of the deaths occurred in persons aged between 70 and 80 years and approximately 23% in persons over 80 years of age.

Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.
TOTAL (All causes)	98	74
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-
Late effects of respiratory tuberculosis	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	2	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast		3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus		2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	
Other malignant neoplasms	3	4
Diabetes mellitus	1	-
Avitaminoses, etc.,	1	-
Multiple sclerosis	-	1
Chromic rheumatic heart disease	2	-
Hypertensive disease	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease	31	21
Other forms of heart disease	3	3
Cerebrovascular disease	17	20
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	4
Pneumonia	6	4
Bronchitis and emphysema	6	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
Other diseases of genito-urinary system	1	-
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-
All other accidents	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Two male patients, both over 60 years of age, died from respiratory tuberculosis during the year and three new cases (1 male and 2 females) of the disease were notified to me from your district.

Prevention of Tuberculosis: B.C.G. vaccination of school children (13yrs and over) was once again carried out at the County Secondary School during the autumn term; 47 pupils were skin tested and 38 of these required vaccination. Dr. D. Llewelyn Davies, Chest Physician for the County also vaccinates contacts at the Chest Clinic. A total of 1,048 school children and 50 contacts in the County received B.C.G. vaccination during 1970.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified to me from your district during the year :

1 Tetanus
19 Measles
3 Infective Jaundice
3 Respiratory Tuberculosis.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mobile Unit of the Mass Radiography Service visited the town of Narberth in January 1970 and carried out a survey amongst the general population. A total of 234 persons were examined (116 female and 118 male) and 15 of these had some abnormality of chest - 7 of these required further observation.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946.

Local Health Services: Vaccinations and immunisations continue to be carried out regularly in the district, at the local infant welfare clinic and at school sessions. Vaccination against Rubella (German Measles) was introduced at the end of the summer and initially vaccination was offered to 13-year old girls; the consent rate by parents being almost one hundred per cent. It is hoped to hold school sessions annually offering protection to all girls aged between 11 and 14 years.

During 1970, the following children under 16 years of age in the County, received vaccination and immunisation :-

Primary diphtheria immunisations:	1,885	"Booster" doses:	1,333
Whooping cough immunisations:	1,857.		
Primary tetanus immunisations:	2,137	"Booster" doses:	1,545
Primary smallpox vaccinations:	800	Re-vaccinations:	188
Primary polio. vaccinations:	1,690	"Booster" doses:	1,211
B.C.G. vaccinations:	1,048	Contacts:	50
Measles vaccinations:	1,123.		
Rubella vaccinations:	573.		

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951.

Section 47: Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

It was necessary to remove one elderly man from his home in the rural district to hospital, under the above Section, during 1970.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND THE DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1970.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	Nil	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	35	2	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises)	Nil	-	-	-
TOTALS:	35	2	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1960.

The number of premises registered under the above Act remains at 69 and two visits were made during the year. It was not necessary to take formal action against any occupier, but several informal notices were served.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Daily observations of smoke and sulphur dioxide were obtained from the three pollution monitoring stations in the district where 150 visits and 2 re-visits were made during the year. It was necessary for one inspection to be made concerning a complaint about a smoke nuisance.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

13 visits were necessary during the year to patients and contacts at home and in work, so that enquiries could be made regarding the cause and prevention of further cases of infectious disease.

MEAT INSPECTION.

A total of 583 visits and 12 re-visits were made to the three licensed slaughterhouses in the district during the year, for the examination of meat.

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.	Visits.	Re-visits.
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health & Housing Acts:	16	12
Dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation:	3	-
No. of visits in connection with filthy or verminous premises:	2	4
No. of visits in connection with defective drainage and/or sanitary fittings:	36	8
No. of interviews with owners or contractors and inspection of work in progress:	1	-

As usual, the allocation of council properties and garages took up a great deal of time and in this connection 50 visits and 149 re-visits were made. There were no reports of overcrowding during the year.

CARAVANNING AND CAMPING.

There were 67 licensed sites operating in the district during 1970, with a permitted number of 2,673 caravans. The number of tent sites was 33 with 639 tents allowed.

This type of holiday has again proved itself to be most popular in the district. Fortunately, there has been a vast improvement in relations between the site operators and the Council, there being only one prosecution during the year. I have no doubt that the Tourist Information Bureau set up at Kingsmoor has assisted us and other authorities quite appreciably, and I would like to express my appreciation for the way the staff at the Bureau so efficiently carried out the direction of the caravans and tourists to the various sites. It is hoped that next season the staff at the Bureau will have much more information available to them, thus making the task of directing holidaymakers an easier one.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Routine inspections continued during the year of all the various food premises to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The principal difficulty encountered during the year, was at the beginning of the holiday season, when a large number of shops opened up suddenly. Too often, premises are hastily erected and business is commenced without full facilities being provided. It is regrettable that there is no prior registration required for food premises, as the enforcement of legal proceedings in these instances is not really desirable. This is because the shop owner does intend to meet the necessary requirements ... eventually, but whilst the visitors are about he needs to trade in the interest of economics. By the time the enforcement action for conversion has taken effect, the season is over and the business has closed down.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES (cont.)

The following visits were made during the year :-

	Visits.	Re-visits.
Bakehouses	1	-
Butchers and cooked meat shops	1	-
Food inspection	5	-
Food - investigation of complaints	4	-
Market stalls and delivery vehicles	4	5
Grocers and confectioners shops	4	-
Public houses and licensed clubs	2	1
Restaurants, cafes and snackbars	2	-

MILK SUPPLIES.

During the year, 79 samples of milk were taken from the 34 producer/retailers in the district; all of these were negative for brucellosis. A total of 29 visits were made and 13 re-visits in this connection.

WATER SAMPLING.

The mains water supply to the rural district continues to be sampled regularly by the Pembrokeshire Water Board, but check samples are also taken by the Public Health Inspectors on receipt of complaints or special requests. A total of 12 visits were made for this purpose during the year, with the following results of sampling:-

Bacteriolgical examination: 10 samples satisfactory; 2 unsatisfactory.

Chemical analysis: 1 satisfactory; 2 unsatisfactory samples.

Samples taken by Water Board: 255, 17 of which were unsatisfactory, but these were dealt with immediately and remedial action taken by the Board.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

It was necessary to make 17 visits to Poultry Houses during the year and 25 visits to establishments boarding animals in the district, the control of the latter being carried out by the Public Health Department.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND ABANDONED VEHICLES.

Only 6 vehicles were dealt with during the year - all vehicles being removed by their respective owners. 22 visits were necessary in this connection. Routine visits and special requests for visits were also made as follows during 1970 :-

	Visits.	Re-visits.
Ashbins:	8	-
Accumulation of refuse:	13	5
Controlled tip and Car Pound:	188	11
Miscellaneous:	12	-

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Fewer visits by the Public Health Inspectors were needed during 1970 - a total of 31 were made - owing to the fact that Mr. J. Evans, Engineer, was appointed to take charge of the pumping stations and sewage disposal works.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The efficient cleansing and maintenance of the Council's 7 public conveniences listed below, was continued during the year, with an extension being made at the Amroth Village conveniences. No complaints were received and 24 inspections were carried out.

Regency Car Park, Saundersfoot.
Harbour Car Park, Saundersfoot.
Coppett Hall, Saundersfoot.
Wiseman's Bridge.
Amroth Village.
Amroth Castle.
Kilgetty.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL.

	Non-Agricultural.	Agricultural.
No. of properties in district:	3,460	944
No. infested by (i) rats :	27	-
(ii) mice :	59	-

It was necessary to visit 93 properties (including nearby premises) following notification, during the year and this necessitated a total of 32 visits. All the above infestations were dealt with by the rodent operator.

Other Miscellaneous visits made during the year are as follows:

	Visits.	Re-visits.
Rag, flock, etc., Act:	Nil	Nil
Offensive trades:	2	6
Miscellaneous:	179	10
Noise Nuisances:	Nil	Nil.

Visits are extremely low for 1970, due to the fact that I was away on sick leave for several months.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. R.D.Johnson for carrying out the extra work so efficiently in my absence.

W. E. DAVIES,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

R.D. JOHNSON,
Deputy Public Health Inspector.